

Written Testimony from Andy Tarutis with regard to Human Services Committee Public Hearing Scheduled For Tuesday March 5, 2013:

My name is Andy Tarutis. I am a licensed Health Care Administrator who has made a life-long career serving Connecticut Seniors.

I am part of the Senior Management Team of TransCon – which owns & operates 4 Skilled Nursing Homes & 2 Assisted Living facilities - just in Connecticut:

- We care for over 750 of Connecticut's elderly.
- We are a major employer in the communities we serve – employing almost 1000 staff and paying out approx. \$35 million in payroll wages per year.
- Additionally we are also a significant tax payer – paying out over \$750,000 in property taxes each year.

Obviously my companies – and I - are vested in Connecticut and caring for Connecticut's seniors.

I ask your support of:

HB 6543- AN ACT AMELIORATING THE DEBT OWED TO NURSING FACILITIES.

This legislation:

- Adds nursing homes to the current list of providers (hospitals, physicians, etc.) whose expenses are currently the joint duty of spouses to pay. This is needed legislation given the financial losses our company and other facilities have suffered. Our Regional Director of Finance, Maritza DeFlorio, is submitting more specific testimony about this matter.
- Will allow nursing home facilities to transfer or discharge nursing home residents who fail to pay applied income to the facility for more than sixty days.

These bills – and the following noted bill – are a few attempts to mitigate the financial stresses – put upon our Connecticut Industry Nursing Homes - due to years of poor funding and cuts.

SB 1025- AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO NURSING FACILITIES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE.

This legislation will mitigate injustices that Ct. Nursing Homes experience when there are excess delays in Medicaid Title 19 pending approvals.

Specifically, this legislation:

- Rectifies the fundamental unfairness whereby nursing facilities are currently required to pay provider taxes, penalties, interest and fees for Medicaid applicants and recipients, when no payment is being received from Medicaid for providing care, and there are excess delays in Medicaid approval.
- Requires reimbursement for interest charges nursing homes experience when they provided uncompensated care or when the Department of Social Services fails to make timely payments to nursing facilities, and
- Modifies provider tax payment deadlines warranted by the Medicaid payment delays.

SB 1022- AN ACT CONCERNING PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO MEET LONG-TERM CARE GOALS.

This legislation would require DSS to provide cost-effective rate increases, consistent with the state's rightsizing and rebalancing goals, whenever a nursing home voluntarily reduces licensed bed capacity, either permanently or temporarily, including voluntary nursing home closures.

These bills are supported by our State Trade Association, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities.

We would sincerely appreciate your support of these bills.

Thank you.

Andrew J. Tarutis
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